

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

MAY 27 1960

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Dear Mr. President:

A summary of progress of the ICBM and IRBM programs during January, February, and March 1960 is attached.

During the subsequent period to date, the following noteworthy events have occurred.

Four ATLAS missiles were flight tested. Two were successful, one was partially successful, and one was destroyed by an explosion during launch. The successful flight of ATLAS 25D on 22 April was the first ATLAS launch from a complex having horizontal missile storage capability. According to preliminary data this missile was the most accurate on target recorded in the program to date. The launch was made by a Strategic Air Command crew from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The successful flight of ATLAS 56D on 20 May from the Atlantic Missile Range had a range of 9,000 statute miles. The missile carried an operational type nose cone as well as approximately 1,000 pounds of research and development instrumentation. On 24 May, an ATLAS-AGENA rocket successfully boosted into orbit MIDAS II, an experimental 5,000-pound infra-red sensing, early warning satellite.

Four successful flight tests of TITAN missiles over the Atlantic Missile Range were conducted. One of the missiles, TITAN G7, launched on 13 May, was the first to carry the operational type re-entry vehicle.

Two MINUTEMAN test vehicles were successfully fired to terminate a series of silo development test launches. The series was originally scheduled for 15 launches but eight completely successful tests have confirmed the adequacy of the simple silo design.

The fourth and last THOR squadron was turned over to the Royal Air Force in April.

In the POLARIS program, six launchings of ALX flight test vehicles were conducted. Four were successful, one was partially successful and preliminary data from the latest flight on 23 May, a launching from the Weapon System Test Ship, USS OBSERVATION ISLAND, indicate that all test objectives were achieved. The second Fleet Ballistic Missile submarine, USS PATRICK HENRY, was commissioned on 9 April and is undergoing tests and trials.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

*James H. Douglas*  
DEPUTY

Attachment

The President

The White House

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By bc NLE Date 11/10/77

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